



EXHIBIT 9
DATE 3-30-07
SB 452

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Mar 30
February 16, 2007

Representative Walter McNutt
Chair, House Natural Resources Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: Support for SB 452

Chairman McNutt and members of the Committee:

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) would like to express its support for SB 452, a bill to create the Montana Working Forests, Ranches, Farms, and Watersheds Program. RMEF is a hunter-based international wildlife conservation organization with a membership of over 150,000 members, including nearly 12,000 Montanans. Members include conservationists, landowners, hunters, and volunteers who all support our mission which is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat. The organization's top priority has never changed, offsetting habitat loss which is the principle threat to elk country in Montana and across the West.

The opportunities for conserving habitat in Montana are becoming more limited with funding for federal conservation programs dwindling and the pressure of subdivision growing. Working forests, ranchlands, and farms have historically provided wildlife habitat and in many cases public hunting access. SB 452 offers the opportunity of helping to maintain this tradition.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on SB 452 and urge you to support it.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Dart
President and CEO

